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CHARGE TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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Personalities. Influencing all major Govt decisions will remain small group of men who constitute power elite. Chancellor not only final authority in deciding between conflicting recommendations made within Govt but predominant formulator of policy as well. At present Chancellor tends increasingly to heed advice of people intent primarily on good publicity. Leading among those is von Eckardt, [redacted] undoubtedly more devoted to getting Chancellor favorable press than to developing solid long-range policies; also, he is not regarded as friendly toward US. Eckardt lines up on side of [redacted] Blankenhorn, to push for narrower, more national-minded approach to current problems, and although latter's appointment as State Secretary in Foreign Office has been staved off for present at least, as result resistance by Brentano and others, he still has Chancellor's ear and is unpredictable influence.

Among most dynamic and wily leaders in Bonn is Defense Minister Strauss. Time is working for him in his aspirations to establish highly competent German army equipped with most modern weapons. [redacted] His chances of becoming Chancellor

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to be devoted to translation by his interpreter. He is an [redacted] engaging fellow.

E and I went to a memorial service at Stimson Chapel for Preston Forbes.

This afternoon Bob Low came to see me. He lives in Madrid and keeps a 72' boat at Mallorca. He has an interest in a couple of Spanish factories and seems to lead a happy life. He and his wife went off this summer on a cruise with Niarchos of the Greek Isles in company with Clare Luce and others.

Couve de Murville asked me to come and see him, and I spent a pleasant hour talking over international affairs with him. He is always calm, and I should think his judgment is good.

Friday, February 7, 1958

E and I went to lunch at the Spanish Embassy. The Venezuelan, Greek and other Ambassadors were there with their wives. It was the best lunch I have eaten in Bonn, starred by Spanish partridge cooked in chocolate. The partridge tend to be dry, and the chocolate, slightly spiced with cinnamon, brings out quite an extraordinary flavor, as well as moistens them up a bit. The Ambassadress, who

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page manuscript Glenn Wolfe had sent me from Paris about the history of our Embassy in France. The editor, Paul Deutschman, has done a good deal of research, but has become stymied about the year 1945, and is looking for new material for 1945 to 1956. It is difficult to provide this, for most of the people stationed in Paris at that time are now scattered around the globe. However, it is important to get this record completed, and I may go to Paris in a couple of weeks and see whether I can be helpful concerning it.

We are still struggling over the charge made by the Soviet officials that they had obtained permission from the FedRep for the overflight of their jet transport plane to take a delegation to the Cachin funeral in Paris.

Thursday, February 27, 1958

I had my bi-weekly staff meeting today.

The Rhine is in full flood. The ferry boats are tied up near shore. Our garden is engulfed from the sides, and the outlines of the swimming pool have disappeared. Water has covered the cellar of the servants' cottage. It snowed again today, and the temperature was 32°.

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Frau von Leistner, introduced by the Chancellor, came to see me about her desire to hold an exhibition in the United States. She is a sculptress and has sold some of her works to prominent German museums as well as to Adenauer. Her mother was American, and she had an uncle, Axel Ramussen, who was a famous aviator during the first World War.

We went for dinner tonight at the Venezuelan Embassy. Among others there were Dr. and Mrs. van Scherpenberg, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, the Mohrs, Chief of Protocol, about to become German Ambassador to Switzerland, and the Colombian Ambassador and his wife. The Venezuelans, to our great disappointment, told us they would be leaving in about six weeks. He [redacted] applied some time ago for a two-year leave in his own country after 23 years of service abroad, and such permission has now been granted. His wife said the only posts they would consider in the future were London or Washington. I do not believe this is the whole story. Marturet has been noticeably troubled ever since the recent revolution in Venezuela took place, and it may well be he is one of its political victims. He said he wanted to have a private talk before he left, to